

all who knew him. Mr. Jordan will always be remembered for his love of family, spirit, and commitment to his community—all of which he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JAMES HOOLEY, HEAD OF POLITICAL
SECTION AT THE BRITISH
EMBASSY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service of James Hooley, who has served as the head of the political section at the British Embassy in Washington D.C. for the past five years. Throughout his tenure, James has personified the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom with his tireless work, diligent commitment, and affable personality.

As one of our key liaisons with the United Kingdom, James has facilitated bipartisan engagement with Congressional members and all levels of the British Government, from Prime Ministers to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Royal Family. Through two Presidential Administrations and two Prime Ministers, James has led the British Embassy's political operations, ensuring we in the United States remain well connected with our allies across the Atlantic. James has been steadfast in ensuring the highest diplomatic channels between our two countries remain open and well-used for the range of issues covered by the U.S.-U.K. relationship.

James will be transitioning back to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London where I have no doubt he will achieve the same success. The Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom remains special thanks to the work of diplomats like James Hooley. We in Congress will miss his work at the Embassy and wish him nothing but the best for his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE SECOND VICTIM OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
IN ERIE COUNTY, WALTER
MONAHAN, A DECORATED VETERAN,
FAMILY MAN, AND A FRIEND TO ALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the remarkable life of Walter Monahan, an exceptional man who was taken far too soon due to COVID-19. Walter was a decorated Vietnam military veteran, an active community leader and volunteer, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Walter became the second resident in Erie County to pass due to COVID-19. His wife, Valerie Monahan, and

his family, wishes for the public to remember Walter for the extraordinary person he was, not just as a statistic in a public health emergency. Walter's unfortunate passing allows us to honor his legacy and the incredible work he did while reminding us all that we must continue to actively take a stand against COVID-19.

Walter's lifelong commitment to serving his country is beyond commendable. He was a Petty Officer second class in the United States Navy. Walter's military career began when he served two tours on a destroyer during the Vietnam War. From there, the Navy truly became a part of Walter's blood. When his tours ended, Walter was transferred to the Pentagon to work for the Chief of Naval Operations. Walter also was a dedicated and active veteran. He marched with the Rochester Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20 marching unit and served on the board of directors.

I had the honor of meeting Walter myself and presenting him with a Vietnam Lapel Pin in thanks for his remarkable service. Walter's immense dedication, sacrifice, and service does not go unrecognized. He exemplified what it means to truly be a patriot, dedicating himself to our American values and serving his country proudly.

It was while he worked at the Pentagon that Walter met the love of his life, Valerie. The two soon got married and returned to Rochester, where Walter had grown up. Together, Walter and Valerie raised two lovely children, their daughter, Kelly and their son, Michael. After moving to Buffalo in 2007, Walter worked as a facilities director for People Inc's Senior Centers. He is remembered by his co-workers for his exceptional customer service, incredible family-oriented mindset, and his immense compassion. They reflect on Walter as being "the kind of employee everyone would want on their team—skilled, caring, friendly, funny and enjoyable to know."

A pinnacle of his community, Walter additionally dedicated his time to being an active member of numerous organizations. He served as a Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph University Parish, a docent at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park, a Meals-on-Wheels volunteer, and a school bus driver. Walter, a true family man at heart, also became a fixture at just about every event involving his grandchildren during his retirement. Walter nobly dedicated his life to service in all manners. He went above and beyond in working to make a better community for all, a true testament to his dedication to service.

COVID-19 wrongfully claimed the remarkable life of Walter, taking his life all too soon. After noticing Walter was not getting enough oxygen, his wife of 50 years, Valerie, called 911 and Walter was admitted to Kenmore Mercy Hospital. Walter's family believed he would recover quickly, thinking he simply had pneumonia or bronchitis. Unfortunately, Valerie was never able to see her beloved husband conscious again. Hours after he arrived at the hospital, Walter was attached to a ventilator and put under a medically induced coma. The family was allowed just moments at his bedside before Walter's passing. Despite the persistence and dedication of the doctors, there was nothing more that could be done for Walter. Walter passed on March 25, 2020 at the age of 74 due to COVID-19, being the second Erie County resident to lose their life to the deadly disease.

After Walter's tragic passing, Valerie dedicated herself to mobilizing people in the community to take a stand against COVID-19. Valerie's early and persistent calls for mask usage along with her active pursuit in spreading the truth about the virus was vital in keeping our community safe during such challenging times. The people are forever in debt to Valerie for her work in taking preventive measures against COVID-19 and advocating for others to do the same.

Today, I wish to echo Valerie's calls for action and encourage the American people to get the COVID-19 vaccine. We now have the means to protect ourselves and our loved ones from this horrible disease. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way we can prevent another loss such as Walter. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Walter and the extraordinary life of service he led and in choosing to actively stand against COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. Walter was an incredible man who dedicated his life to serving his country and community nobly. His life was cut all too short due to this horrible and deadly virus. By getting the COVID-19 vaccination, each person is actively taking a step to ensure we do not lose any more American citizens to this illness. May we honor Walter's legacy and remarkable life by ensuring his death is not in vain; we must continue to protect our communities and country in the same fashion Walter did during his lifetime.

HONORING NIKOLA "NICK"
VOYVODICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nikola "Nick" Voyvodich in celebration of his longstanding career in law enforcement.

Born in Oakland, California, at Oaknoll Naval Hospital, Nikola "Nick" Voyvodich was no stranger to the definition of bravery, as his father was wounded in action as a United States Marine. After receiving an associate of the arts degree from Ohlone College, on August 25, 1994, Mr. Voyvodich joined the Newark Police Department as a reserve officer, jump starting his career in law enforcement. A few years later, on March 2, 1994, Mr. Voyvodich became a full-time police officer with the Martinez Police Department.

His illustrious career included a strong dedication to training others in the law enforcement field and in defensive tactics, and so much more. He served as a member of the bicycle patrol team, detective, corporal, and a special agent in Central County Narcotic Enforcement Team (CNET), which is a team that specializes in narcotics. He was often accompanied by his beloved late K9 partner, Brit.

Mr. Voyvodich received two awards while serving as the President of the Police Officers Association, further highlighting his dedication to his community. He received a Chiefs Commendation in 2012 and a Life Saving Award in 2016. Specializing in narcotics, he worked tirelessly to maintain the safety of Martinez.

Mr. Voyvodich and his wife Melissa Voyvodich have six beautiful children: Austin, Elizabeth, Kaitlin, Christopher, Thomas, and